

Guidance on Personal Care Support at University (including assistance dogs)

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Introduction

ARU welcomes disabled students and we will do all we reasonably can to support you in your studies. You will be offered a place by Admissions on the basis of the entry requirements and your academic potential to successfully complete your course. Whilst your application is being processed we recommend that you tell us if you have a disability or additional support needs so that we can contact you as early as possible about the level of support we can offer and reasonable adjustments we can make to help you to make an informed decision about your chosen course.

What is personal care support?

Personal care support refers to any practical help or assistance you require for daily life, regardless of student status – in other words, non-study related activities or tasks. Personal care would include:

- getting up, going to bed, or adjusting position overnight (and during the day)
- washing/bathing and getting dressed
- help with eating or medication
- using the toilet
- domestic activities – cleaning your living area, shopping, preparing meals
- leisure or extra-curricular activities
- driving or helping you to get around outside study hours

UK students

The University does not provide support or funding for personal care or medical treatment (including medication, medical supplies or mobility equipment) because these things would be required even if you were not a

student so they are not related to your studies. Travel costs to receive medical treatment are also your responsibility.

Funding and arranging personal care support

Disabled Students' Allowances will only cover additional costs that are directly related to your study.

The local authority where you are 'ordinarily resident' is responsible for assessing and paying for any social or personal care support whilst you are living away from home at university. They can assist with completing applications for financial support through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for Personal Independence Payments (PIP), which can help with some of the extra costs caused by a disability that are not study related.

<https://www.gov.uk/pip>

For more information about state benefits assistance is available from www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/BeginnersGuideToBenefits/index.htm

and from Disability Rights UK www.disabilityrightsuk.org/how-we-can-help/benefits-information-disabled-people-and-advice-workers

International students

It might be difficult for you to visit our campuses before your course starts, so it is important that you contact Disability and Dyslexia Support as soon as possible so we can find out more about what you might need and help you think about any arrangements that you will need to make.

Cost of care

International students are not eligible for financial assistance with care costs from the British government and the University is unable to fund personal care

support. It is, therefore, essential that you have included these additional costs in your budget, and that you have sufficient funding in place for the duration of your course before you come to the UK.

You will need to talk to a Disability Adviser as soon as possible about what your care needs in the UK will be and also need to check that appropriate support is available where you will be studying and that this is within your budget. You should organise an individual assessment of your care needs in the UK prior to getting a full quote as costs can vary considerably, ranging from £40,000 to more than £100,000 over a 10 month period, depending on the type and level of support you require.

This is particularly important if you require any of the following:

- 24-hour care
- intermittent support at particular times of the day;
- waking or sleeping support overnight;
- one or two carers for manual lifting/hoist operation;
- accommodation for overnight carer(s);
- any mobility equipment you are not able to bring from home.

You will also need to take into account how long you will need the support for (i.e. the length of the course), whether you will be travelling home or to other destinations during vacations and whether local agencies have appropriately trained carers.

Arranging personal care support

It can take a long time to make arrangements for personal care so it is important that you start to make plans as soon as you have received your offer (even if it is conditional). If your personal carer will require their own

accommodation, you should also let us know about this so we can advise whether suitable accommodation is available and what the associated costs might be.

Medication

You should also establish whether any prescription medication you need is licensed for use in the UK, and if not, how you will get it sent to you. Similarly, you should consider whether it is more cost effective to ship specialist medical equipment rather than purchase it in the UK.

The [International Student Advice Service at Anglia Ruskin University](#) offers a range of free specialist services to our international students. The advice provided is available to students currently registered at Anglia Ruskin University or students who have been offered a place to study with us.

Guide/assistance dogs

Anglia Ruskin University generally prohibits individuals from bringing animals inside any University owned, leased or controlled buildings, vehicles or structures. However, Anglia Ruskin University recognises that an assistance dog may be kept and used by a disabled person (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) wholly or mainly for the purpose of assisting that person to carry out day to day activities. We do what we can to ensure that the needs of individuals who require an assistance dog in the course of their work/studies are met whilst outlining the practical measures required to minimise the risk to the health, safety, and welfare of those who come into contact with the assistance dog.

You must request permission from the University to bring an assistance dog onto our premises (except in the case of transitory visits). You will also need to provide evidence from a medical practitioner that confirms the disability related need to bring an assistance dog on campus. .

Training and accreditation requirements

A trained service animal is defined as a guide dog or signal dog that is individually trained to perform tasks or to do work for the benefit of a disabled person such as guiding the blind, alerting the deaf to specific sounds, pulling a wheelchair or responding to a stimulus such as the onset of a seizure.

You will be required to provide evidence that your dog is a certified assistance dog which has been trained through one of the organisations registered with Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK), or international equivalent which meet a rigorous assessment process which ensures that dog training and welfare, client support and the related infrastructure all works to very high standards.

If you are an international student you will need to provide documentary evidence that your dog is trained by an accredited training organisation which is a part of either the International Guide Dogs Federation or Assistance Dogs International. <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/services/guide-dog-services/assistance-dog-travel-guide/advice-on-entering-the-uk-for-international-visitors#.WSfzjU0UXoo> provides more information on UK regulatory requirements and a summary of the preparation that should be undertaken before you reach the UK.

Therapy and Support Animals

A therapy or emotional support animal does not facilitate mobility for its owner or user or assist on daily tasks, and need not accompany its owner at all times. A dog providing emotional support alone is not sufficient for the animal to be classed as a service animal and does not have the same legal privileges. For more information regarding the law on assistance dogs, please visit <http://www.assistedogs.org.uk/law/>

Waiver and Insurance

You will need to keep your dog under control and accept full responsibility for its behaviour whilst on ARU campus, including safe disposal of its waste.

Your Disability Adviser will provide information on the availability and location

of spending facilities. If you are unable to collect and dispose of the waste yourself you can discuss this with your Disability Adviser.

You will be required to ensure that your assistance dog is covered by full liability insurance and provide a copy of your certificate. The University will require the assistance dog owner to sign a waiver outlining expectations of behaviour.

For full details about your responsibilities and to see the Anglia Ruskin University Higher Education Corporation Compliance and Risk document please ask your [disability adviser](#).

Restricted access

The University may restrict access of Assistance Dogs to certain areas for health and safety reasons. Restricted areas may include research laboratories, medical facilities, areas where protective clothing is required, boiler rooms, etc. Applications for exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Other information

[Disability and Dyslexia Support](#) can advise on funds available to help students access specific disability-related study support, such as specialist study equipment and assistive software, orientation support, practical assistance, a specialist mentor for students with mental health difficulties or Autistic Spectrum conditions or specialist study skills tuition for students with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Our [Student Money Advice Service](#) offers a range of support, information and advice to help you manage your finances during your studies.

Contact Us

Let [Disability and Dyslexia Support](#) know as soon as possible if you will need personal care support at University. We will involve your faculty in any

discussions with you about the nature of the course and the environment in which you will be studying and living so that we can accurately assess your requirements. We cannot recommend or engage carers on your behalf, but we can make suggestions about how you could go about finding an external agency to deliver this support.